

## Study Guide for In Concert featuring Willy Wonka & The Golden Ticket 9th-12th Grade Edition

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### Exploring the Artistic Depth of Willy Wonka

*In Concert featuring Willy Wonka & The Golden Ticket* is a unique dance adaptation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, blending multiple artistic elements—choreography, movement, and visual storytelling—to present a fresh take on the classic tale. This study guide will explore the deeper artistic and thematic elements of the production.

### Thematic Analysis & Character Development

- **Willy Wonka:** A symbol of imagination, control, and moral reckoning. How does his character use dance to balance whimsy with discipline?
- **Charlie:** The archetype of innocence and virtue. How does his movement contrast with the other golden ticket winners?
- **Augustus Gloop:** Represents gluttony and excess; how does his movement reflect his uncontrollable hunger?
- **Veruca Salt:** Symbolizing entitlement and impatience; how does her choreography showcase her demanding nature?
- **Violet Beauregarde:** A representation of vanity and competitiveness; how does her movement express arrogance and self-importance?
- **Mike TV:** Obsessed with screens and technology; how do hip-hop and digital-inspired movements define his character?
- **Grandpa and Grandma:** Supportive and loving figures; how does their presence ground Charlie's journey?
- **The Oompa Loompas:** Wonka's mysterious workforce, their synchronized movements reinforce their role as storytellers of moral lessons.
- **Wonka Dancers:** Embodying the energy and magic of Wonka's world, their dance sequences enhance the atmosphere of the factory.
- **Young Willy Wonka Boys:** Wonka's spirited helpers who contribute to the magic of the factory.
- **Lollipops, Candy Fairies, Gumdrops:** Dancers representing the playful and sweet aspects of the factory.
- **Hip Hop Dancers & Video Gamers:** Featured in the scene where Mike TV becomes consumed by his digital world.
- **Monkeys & Island Dancers:** Representing the journey of gathering cocoa beans for Wonka's chocolate.
- **Colorful Imagination Dancers:** Bringing creativity and movement to life.

### Choreography & Dance Styles as Narrative Tools

This production incorporates various dance styles, each contributing to the storytelling in a distinct way:

- **Tap Dance:** Used to create rhythmic emphasis, especially in high-energy sequences. How does tap enhance the storytelling, particularly in factory scenes?
- **Hip Hop:** A physically expressive and contemporary dance form, symbolizing rebellion and excess, particularly in Mike TV's digital-obsessed world.
- **Pointe Work:** A classical ballet technique where dancers use special shoes to rise onto the tips of their toes. This form adds elegance and a dreamlike quality, particularly in scenes emphasizing wonder and fantasy.
- **Jazz Dance:** A dynamic and theatrical dance style that captures the exaggerated personalities of the characters and the whimsical nature of Wonka's world.

## Scenes & Their Artistic Interpretation

1. **SCENE 1A & 1B – “Pure Imagination” & “Wonka Welcome Song”** – Introduction to Wonka's world; what staging and movement techniques help establish its surreal quality?
2. **SCENE 2A – “I’ve Got a Golden Ticket” & 2B – “Sharp Dressed Man”** – How do the winners' performances contrast with Charlie's more humble movements?
3. **SCENE 3A – “Pure Imagination” & SCENE 3C – “Oompa Loompa”** – What choreographic choices reinforce the Oompa Loompas' cautionary messages?
4. **SCENE 4A, 4B, & 4C – “Don’t Mess with a Good Thing”** – How does movement express the idea of temptation and consequence?
5. **SCENE 5A – “Next Big Thing”** – A scene filled with ambition and self-promotion; how do dance and costuming work together to showcase these themes?
6. **SCENE 6A & 6B – “Batucada Fantastic”** – A rhythm-driven scene exploring the global roots of chocolate production; how does cultural representation influence movement choices?
7. **SCENE 7A – “Pure Imagination”** – The grand finale; how does this final number tie together the visual, narrative, and movement themes?

## The Impact of Technical Elements

- **Video Projections & Green Screen Effects:** How do these elements create an immersive world? How does their integration with choreography enhance storytelling?
- **Lighting Design:** How do different lighting choices influence the mood of each scene?
- **Costume & Set Design:** How do costumes enhance character representation? How does the set's adaptability contribute to the storytelling?

## Critical Thinking & Creative Reflection

### Pre-Performance Discussion:

- What does dance offer as a storytelling medium that differs from traditional theater?
- How might movement choices shift to reflect the tone and themes of different scenes?

### Post-Performance Analysis:

- How did the production reinterpret *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* through movement and visual storytelling?
- Which character's choreography stood out the most? What made it memorable?
- What role did technical effects play in enhancing the narrative?

### **Creative Activities:**

- **Choreographic Interpretation:** Choose a character and create a short movement sequence representing their journey.
- **Set & Costume Design Challenge:** Sketch or describe an alternate set or costume concept for a key scene.
- **Cinematic Dance Analysis:** Compare and contrast this production's movement choices with a dance sequence from a film or stage production you admire.